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SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT

OR

BOROUGH OF SUDBURY,

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1902.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board and of the West Suffolk County Council.)

Population 1881, 6,592. Population 1891, 7,059. Population 1901, 7,109.
Acreage 2,093. Number inhabited houses 1,590. Average number of persons per house 4.4.
Geological formation, Chalk, covered with brick earth or drift sands and gravels, belonging to the boulder clay.

The following vital statistics are compiled from the returns received from the District Registrar, and notifications of Zymotic Diseases.

BIRTHS.

There were 155 births registered during the year, equivalent to a birth-rate of 20.5 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates in the borough during the past eight years were :

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Births ...	180	177	129	187	156	150	158	155
Birth-rate	25.4	25.2	18.2	26.4	22.0	20.8	22.2	20.5

The average for the last ten years is 165.8 or 23.0.

The birth-rate for 1902 in England and Wales was 28.6.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths from all causes registered in the district was 138, from which 24 deaths in the Work-house and St. Leonard's Hospital from the rural parishes have to be subtracted, leaving the actual deaths as 114, equivalent to a death-rate of 15.7 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the past eight years were :

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Deaths registered...	143	150	120	141	178	140	152	138
Deaths belonging } to the District }	111	125	96	113	146	116	129	114
Death-rate... ...	15.7	17.7	13.5	16.0	20.6	16.4	18.1	15.7

The average for the last ten years was 122 or 18.0.

The death-rate for 1902 in England and Wales was 16.3.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of Infants under one year of age were 21, equivalent to the proportion of 130.0 per thousand births registered. The average for the last ten years being 115.2. The 1902 average for England and Wales was 133.0.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

Five deaths occurred, the causes being Typhoid Fever 2, Whooping Cough 2, Erysipelas 1. The Zymotic death-rate for the past eight years was as follows :

1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
<hr/> 0	<hr/> 1.2	<hr/> 0.7	<hr/> 0.7	<hr/> 0.7	<hr/> 0.5	<hr/> 0.1	<hr/> 0.6

For 1902 in England and Wales it was 1.64.

DEATHS FROM ALL OTHER CAUSES AND AGES.

Excluding the deaths of non-residents who died in public institutions, the following causes contributed to the mortality :— Phthisis 9, other Tubercular Diseases 5, Cancer 11, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 16, Heart Diseases 19, Accidents 2.

With regard to ages, there were under 5 years 25 deaths, from 5 to 25 years 9 deaths, from 25 to 65 years 35 deaths, over 65 years 45 deaths.—Total 114.

OBSERVATIONS.

The above vital statistics show a slight falling off in the number of births, which is not satisfactory, though the decrease in the number of deaths is. The infant mortality is rather above the average.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following were notified :—Diphtheria 1, Scarlet Fever 3, Typhoid Fever 3, Erysipelas 6—Total 13. The following are particulars :—

DIPHTHERIA.

Only the one case occurred, a child aged 7 years, residing in East Street, four other children in the house. I advised the removal of the case at once to the Isolation Hospital ; this was done, and no spread of the infection took place. It was impossible to account for the origin of this solitary case of Diphtheria ; there were no other cases in the neighbourhood, and the premises were satisfactory. The child recovered ; anti-toxin was used.

SCARLET FEVER.

Three mild cases occurred in three families, one being imported. The usual methods were successfully taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Three cases. The first, which proved fatal, was that of a carter, who travelled for some distance in the neighbourhood, taking his meals and sometimes sleeping away from home, where he probably contracted the disease, as inspection of his house failed to discover any possible cause. The second case, which also was fatal, was that of a respected young baker, and could be traced to the eating of oysters. The third case, which recovered, was a brother of the baker, who lived with him, and no doubt contracted the disease from his brother. The premises were inspected and found to be in a good sanitary condition.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This is not a notifiable disease. Early in the year an outbreak occurred in one part of the town among the infants and young children ; two of the cases terminated fatally. Along with two members of the Council we considered it necessary to order the infant department of the Board School to be closed for three weeks, owing to the prevalence of this disease. This was done from the 21st January. Special report was made.

SMALL POX.

Fortunately the town escaped any invasion of this disease during last winter's epidemic. Several cases occurred in the neighbouring towns and excited much alarm, so that the protection of re-vaccination was generally resorted to : a large proportion of children over ten years of age were also re-vaccinated.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The general absence of Zymotic Diseases during the year prevented this Hospital being used, except for three weeks in December for a case of Diphtheria.

WATER SUPPLY.

A continuous supply of water was maintained throughout the year. This was an improvement on the preceding year, when it was obliged to be intermittent during the summer. This result has been obtained by the lowering of the pumps, and connecting the suction pipe direct with the bore tube at the bottom of the well. By thus taking off the pressure of the water and pumping direct from the bore tube, a greater supply has been obtainable. There is still however a reduced flow in the bore tube as compared with several years ago. It is hoped that this experiment will stand the test of time and prove successful, thus saving the large expense which would be incurred in constructing a storage tank at the bottom of the well. The decrease in the quantity of inflow is probably entirely due to the general deficiency of the rain fall. Instead of coming up to the average of 23 inches, it was 21.07 as recorded by E. Ransom, Esq. Still this is a slight improvement on the preceding year when it was only 19.89.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE.

During the year the town has undergone the most radical upheaval it has ever experienced, as an entire system of new sewers have been laid down and almost completed. This could not be done without some public inconvenience ; streets had in turn to be ripped open and traffic suspended, sometimes an old erratic sewer or drain was struck and added a temporary discomfort. Still reviewing the whole extent of work undertaken, it must be conceded that the contractors and surveyors carried it out most ably, expeditiously and carefully. Though the main sewers are laid, the connecting drains with the houses are still in course of construction, but will be completed early in the year. The outfall works are also in hand and will be completed this spring, including the refuse destructor, bacterial tank, and contact beds. The town will now have the most efficient and modern system of sewage that as yet has been devised.

HOUSES.

Ten new houses were erected and inspected during the year. One old house reported last year as unfit for human habitation in Ballingdon Street has been taken down and re-built.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, came into force on January 1st this year, and imposes several new duties and powers on the District Councils and their officers. These have mainly to do with the sanitation of Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and also of out or home workers of certain kinds. It also imposes the duty of obliging all Factories and Workshops employing more than 40 people to have reasonable provision made in respect of safety from fire.

FACTORIES.

These number 6 employing mechanical power, viz., 3 Silk-weaving, 1 Cocoa Mat making, 2 Stays or Corset-making.

INSPECTION.

With regard to sanitary condition and conveniences, all are satisfactory.

WITH REGARD TO MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM FIRE.

1st.—One of the Factories for Silk-weaving has been erected since 1892. It is entirely constructed on the ground floor, with four double doors opening outwards, and fitted with fire escape fastenings. This factory has been furnished with a certificate that it is provided with such means of escape in case of fire as can reasonably be required.

2nd.—Another Silk-weaving Factory, employing nearly 200 women, requires additional outlets, and notice to that effect has been given. At the same time this factory has a trained fire brigade of workmen.

3rd.—Mat-making; and 4th, Corset Factory.—Both require additional facilities for outlets, and notice to that effect has been given.

The two other factories employ under 40 workers and are therefore exempt.

WORKSHOPS AND WORK PLACES.

There are about 78 in number. A correct registry has not yet been completed, but is in course of inspection. Seven notices were received from H.M. Inspector with respect to defects: these were at once attended to and remedied.

OUT-WORKERS.

No lists have yet been received. Notices have been sent to factories and workshops employing out-workers to send lists on 1st February and 1st August.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Systematic as well as Special Inspections were made during the year, including Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds and Dairies, and two Lodging Houses.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

The following is the report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. T. W. A. Hayward, C.E., F.S.I. :—

Number of Nuisances removed by written notice	..	...	...	47
„ additional houses provided with water	...	...	...	10
„ „ privies using the tub service	...	...	...	2
„ new houses erected and inspected	...	...	...	10
„ houses made fit for habitation	...	...	..	1
„ orders obtained for closing houses	...	...	...	0
„ houses disinfected	...	...	...	5
„ notices received from the Inspector of Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	7
(All of which were remedied).				

Several defective sewers were repaired.

Several ditches into which sewage flows were cleaned.

Numerous nuisances were removed in the form of ashes and refuse heaps, besides the partial systematic collection.

Tabular statements according to the forms required by the Local Government Board and the West Suffolk County Council are appended to the Official Copies of this report.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.
Medical Officer of Health.



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